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Shorteſt-Way

WITH THE

DISSENTERS:

OR,

PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE

CHURCH.

With its Author's Brief Explication *Conſider'd*, His Name *Expos'd*, His Practices *Detected*, and His Helliſh Deſigns ſet in a true Light, that the Party which ſtickles for Him, may rightly know Him, and that which is againſt Him, continue to Triumph over him.

——— *Crimine ab Uno*
Diſce Omnes ———
——— *Nec Defenſoribus iſtis*
Tempus egit Virg. *En.*

London, Printed in the Year 1703.

BRITISH MUSEUM
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FEB

THE SHORTEST-WAY WITH THE *DESSENTERS*, &c.

OUR Pretended Church-man begins with one of Sir *Roger*'s Fables, on purpoſe to be thought one of Sir *Roger*'s Opinion, and the *Cock* and the *Horſes* are brought in, as an Application to the Buſineſs he takes in Hand; it will not therefore be Improper for me to begin with my Story too, and make Uſe of the ſame Aſſiſtance that have a Right to it for being of the ſame Principles.

As the *Apples* and the *Horſe-Turds* were Swimming down the River together, cries the *Horſe-Turds* to the *Apple*, Lord Siſter how *We Apples* Swim! So the Fellows that carry Guts to the Bear-Garden ſay *We* the King's Officers, *&c.* And to add to Sir *Roger*'s Obſervations on this Occaſion, the Perſon that wrote the *True-born Engliſhman*, which is the very ſame that is now under our Cognizance cries, *We Loving* Subjects, and the Author of the *Shorteſt Way We* true Churchmen.

But 'tis eaſie to diſtinguiſh betwixt the one and the other, and the Pretended *Jacob*, notwithſtanding a Preſident to the contrary, cannot run away with *Eſau*'s Birthright, his *Hair* and his *Hands* may be the ſame, but he muſt be known by his Voice, and his Unman-like Diſpoſition will diſcover him. His Cant, and his Whining Tone Betrays him, and he that would *Sin* in Secret, may be *Rewarded Openly*, if he does not prove too hard for the Meſſengers, and leave his poor Printer and Publiſher in the Lurch, whom he would have the World think him ſo Solicitous for:

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Follow him by the Scent of his Scraps of Scripture, and you'll find him at *Salter's*, or *Pinner's-Hall*, there needs no farther Purſuit, and whether you ſeek for Mr. *Fo* the *Hoſier*, or Mr. *Fo* the Preacher; 'tis all one, there is no occaſion to ſpend more Time in ſearch after him. There's your Man, I mean, there was your Man, before the Queen's Meſſengers made him *Love* with his Divinity, tho' now, I ſuppoſe, *Tom Double's* Noble Friends have got him in their Protection, and Skreen him from the Juſtice of the Laws that are making Inquiſition for his Endeavouring to render Odious the *Pureſt, and moſt Flouriſhing Church in the World.*

They are his own Words, *Ex ore ſuo Judicabitur*, and muſt never paſs for an Irony with Honeſt Men, through his brief Explication affirms 'em for ſuch with him, and he has the Impudence to hope for Favour from the Government, at the ſame time he Induſtriouſly Abuſes it, by telling the World in Print, That what he had ſaid of the *Throne of this Nation, being poſſeſs'd by a Royal*, Engliſh, *True, and ever Conſtant Member of, and Friend to the Church of* England, was nothing but a downright Copy of his Countenance, he meant the quite Contrary.

If this deſerves Mercy from Queen, Council, or Parliament, I know not what Crimes may not Expect it; and if making a Jeſt of Her Majeſty's Rightful and Lawful Title, of Her firm Adherence to the Church by Law Eſtabliſh'd may have it's Excuſe, Murther and Rebellion have a Right to Plead for Theirs.

If it be the *Non Jurors Cant*, to ſay, That the *Glory and Peace of the Church has been Eclipſed, Buffetted, and Diſturb'd by a ſort of Men whom God in his Providence has ſuffer'd to Inſult over her this Fourteen Years*, &c. The Jurors agree, with 'em in it, and late Management will make the Truth of it as Conſpicuous as Her Sufferings. Have we not heard with our Ears, and ſeen with our Eyes the Reproaches and Indignities that were offer'd to Her, while thoſe that ſhould have been Her Pillars, conſented to Deſtroy Her, and thoſe that were Miniſtred at her Altars were Number'd amongſt them that Combin'd againſt her; Have our Mayors Bluſh'd in the leaſt, or our Sheriffs been out of Countenance at their Riding in Solemn Pomp to Conventicles, or bearing the Sword of State to Meetings, in Oppoſition to the known Laws of this Kingdom: when the Daughter of a King, the Preſumptive Heireſs of Three Flouriſhing Kingdoms has been ſeen in our ſtreets, going to the Houſe of the Lord, without Guards, without fitting Attendance, without any other Enſigns of Royalty than the Majeſty of her own Preſence, and

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the ſpotleſs Innocence of her Soul, even tho' ſhe went where the Laws of God and Man directed her.

Yet it is all a Banter, nothing but an *Irony* to the Minuteſt Syllable, that *Synagogues have been put up at our Church Doors* is meer Illuſion, That Diſſenters ran away with Places of Truſt, and were choſen for Majeſtrates and Governours, is nothing but Fancy, and We have no manner of Reaſon to look out for Poſterity, and ſecure the Exerciſe of the True Religion, which we happily Enjoy under the beſt of Queens to ſucceeding Ages. Screw up an Inſtrument never ſo Melodious too high, and it neceſſarily breaks; advance Poſitions that are Violent, and thoſe that put them in Practice can never be long at the *Helm* of Government. This has been the Maxim which has belong'd to the Party ſince the firſt Riſe of it, and will ſtick by it till the Gates of Hell ſhall prevail over it, and it ſhall be Swallow'd up in its own Primitive Darkneſs. And this has been the Melancholy Occaſion that a late Bill has met with Obſtructions, and hitherto been rendred unſucceſsful; that Men are yet ſuffer'd to be for God and for *Baal* at the ſame time, and Communicate with the Church of *Chriſt*, on purpoſe to be Enabled to ſide againſt *Her* with the Sons of *Belial*.

But theſe Artificers are too Apparent, and their Deſigns are in every bodies Eye. The Queen ſees through 'em, the Council apprehends 'em, the Parliament have it yet in their Power to prevent em, and we are not to doubt, that an Auguſt Aſſembly, where our Biſhops *take Council together*, and the heads of our Holy Religion *ſit in Judgment*, will loſe an Opportunity of ſuch Moment, ſuch a high *Concern* to the Spiritual Affairs of thoſe that are to come after us; that our Nobility will have an Eſteem for that Virtue, which is the *True Nobility*, and our *Judges* Inſtruct 'em at laſt to tread Effectually in the Paths of their Forefathers. Through Diſputes may at preſent ariſe, and the Enemy fling Fallacies in their way; though Appearances for a while may be taken for what is Real, and the Gloſſy way of Speech made uſe of by ſome Members, prevail over the honeſt and plain Arguments of others that have ſignaliz'd themſelves for Religion, and Loyalty; tho' the Enemies words are not yet weigh'd in the Ballance, and found as Light as their Actions, their Accounts, their late M——ſters E——q——r by many Grains. Not that we ſeek the Lives and Liberties of any Chriſtian Congregation whatſoever; not that we would have the World to believe we wou'd put in Practice the Doctrines of *Fire and Faggot*; not that we would make the *Unrighteous* ſeem Perſecut-

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ed for *Righteouſneſs ſake*; but ſince neither the Preccpts of the Goſpel, nor the Encouragement of the Law can bring 'em over: Since Decency and Order are deteſtable in their Eyes, and held as Scandalous and Prophane within their Underſtandings; Would we mind the Things that *belongs to our Peace*, we ſhould make it our Endeavours to diſpoſeſs 'em of thoſe Poſts that give 'em an Advantage over us, and prevent 'em from aſſuming that Government again, which Experience has but too lately convinc'd us they had well nigh manag'd to our utter Deſtruction.

Let 'em employ their Eſtates a God's Name, let 'em have the Benefit of the Laws now in Force for the Continuance of 'em in the due Exerciſe of the Religion they adhere to; but 'tis time for us to have a Seaſon to get Mony in as well as they. The Places of Truſt of right belong to thoſe who are beſt Qualify'd for 'em; and if taking the Sacrament according to the manner of the Church of *England*, be requiſite towards ſuch a Qualification, then he that has been bred up in that Church, is read in the *Doctrines* and *Inſtitutions* of it, and has all along preſerv'd in the Faith belonging to it, is undoubtedly the beſt qualify'd.

Fourteen Years Fattening deſerves a more than fourteen Years Mortification, and it is but Equitable that thoſe whom the Law has been made in Favour of, ſhould reap the Advantages of its *Sanction*. I ſpeak without an Irony, and a *Butcher'd Knife*, a *Depoſed King*, and a *Mock King* (are Epithet's very unfit for his late Majeſty, after *Conventicle Foe's* Character of him in his Harangue upon him in his *True-born Engliſhman*) are Arguments ſufficient with me to have 'em driven out from our Royal Palaces for the future, and ſuffer'd not to Croak in the Chambers that belong to thoſe that Rule over us.

If theſe are the Sayings of the *Church Party*, if their Members have been ſtanch to their Principles, and unſhaken in their Loyalty to the late King *James*, it redounds to their Eternal Glory; when not a Soul of a *Diſſenter* will be found in Hiſtory or handed down to Poſterity, for one that had any Qualm in his Conſcience, when Preferment was in View, but *Swallow'd* what he call'd *Iniquity like Water, and eat and drank* what ſome amongſt 'em call'd *their own Damnation*, without any Fear or Trembling.

They have a Law which *Permits* 'em to be what they are; but it does not *Eſtabliſh 'em*, does not fix 'em ſo, as to render their Priviledges equal with thoſe of the Church; and if there is a Poſitive Command laid upon thoſe that take any Office in

the State, to frequent the Worſhip of God, according to its dinances, that very Command implies a Superiority, and t the Church is of more Authority than the *Conventicle*; a actually Eſtabliſh'd, or the Laws would never enjoyn thos that were in Authority themſelves to ſubſcribe to its Articles, and hold its Sacraments and *Confeſſion* of Faith.

The Queen has given 'em Her Royal Word to ſtand by the Act of Toleration, at the ſame time as ſhe own'd Herſelf to be the *Nurſing Mother* of the *Church:* but our *Predicating Hoſier* with his Ironies would Inſinuate to the World, after his Inſolent way of preſcribing to his Betters, that She muſt *break Her Promiſe to one Party or other*, that it is not Probable a Lady bred up in the *Church*, and ſtrictly educated in the Purity of its Worſhip, ſhould run-counter to Her own Inclinations, which ſhe has imbib'd from her Infancy; therefore thoſe of the contrary Opinion to Hers, muſt be Extirpated, muſt be cut off Root and Branch; and like the *Jews* by *Edward* the Firſt's Sanguinary Laws, Diſpers'd, Baniſh'd, and Kill'd; and render'd Extinct they and their Poſterity.

Tell it not in Gath, Puoliſh it not in Askalon. leſt the Daughters of the Philſtines rejoyce; leſt thoſe whom you call by the Names of *Papiſts*, *Tories*, and what not, Triuuph over you. If this be not blowing the Trumpet of Sedition, and crying out, *To your Tents ye Men of Iſrael!* What is an Incendiary: what is the Man that makes it his Practices to ſtir up Diviſions, and ſow the Seeds of Diſſention? Good Mr. *Foe*, if the Terrors you are under for being made a Publick Example, will permit you to Reply to your ſelf. Becauſe you have not a Lord Mayor of your own *Congregation* this Year; becauſe our Sheriffs are Honeſt, Worthy Gentlemen, and Three of our Members of Parliament Zealous and Affectionate to the *Beſt Eſtabliſh'd Church in the World:* Are ye therefore fit to live no longer? *Can* ye be no longer Serviceable in this World than while ye Govern in it? And have ye not been Born to Obey as well as *Command* in it?

No, no, miſtake not the Queen, who is more Tender of your Lives and Welfare, than one Soul of you is of Her Honour and Reputation: miſtake not the Intentions of Parliament, who, in that which Affects the Party more than your pretended cry of *Liberty* and *Property*, ſpares you in your Eſtates equally with the *Church-Men*; miſtake not the Senſe of the Nation, I mean tha Part of it that Abhors your Principles; Blood and Slaughte r are not in their Thoughts, nor is any thing in their Practi : bu r Mercy and Compaſſion.

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They have groan'd under your Oppreſſions, have been gorn'd with a *Rod of Iron*, yet hold out the *Scepter of Righteouſneſs* to you. *Conform* and ſhare in Offices and Places of Truſt, is their *Call to the Unconverted*; Diſſent, yet partake of the Mild Adminiſtration of thoſe that Poſſeſs the Power of Government, and ſit at the Helm for the Direction of Publick Affairs.

If ye cannot ſhew an Act made in your Favour to exempt you from going to *Church* in Publick Poſts, throughout the late Reign, where you had more Encouragement than ye deſerv'd; Would ye have it Enacted in this Queens Days, who is no ſtranger to the Hatred ye have born to her Illuſtrious Family ever ſince its Acceſſion to the Throne, and is not ignorant of your Diſcourſes, your Cabals, your Calves-Head Feaſts, your Riots, and Tumults, and Factious Aſſemblies?

Life without Gold Chains, and Swords and Maces, is a Burto you; and either ye muſt not be at all, or be in Places of Honour and Intereſt. But Her Majeſty, and the Great Council of the Land, now Aſſembled in Parliament, have more Chriſtian Diſpoſitions, and a more tender Regard for your Happineſs than you are apt to imagine.

Other Reigns and other Parliaments conſulted the Eaſe of your Bodies, but neglected the Welfare of your Precious Souls, as they gave Permiſſion to ſwallow down Oaths, which in your Cry were an Abomination to the Lord; *and allow'd you to digeſt Sacraments, which had always been held for Loathſome, and of damnable Conſequence in the Eyes of thoſe whom ye call* Vnſuperſtitious.

Your Saviour *King* William, *that Redeem'd you when you were in no other Bondage than that which you Petition'd for the* Freedom *of being Tolerated to Sin, ſuffer'd you to go on with your ſhew, to diſſemble with God Almighty, to frequent his Altars; and afterwards return to the Houſe of* Rimmon, And give thanks for killing your Maſter, and Riſing up in Rebellion againſt the Lord's Anointed.

But a Lady now ſits on the Throne, who, tho' ſprung from that Blood which ye and your Forefathers ſpilt before the Palace Gates, tho' a Branch of that Family, whoſe Illuſtrious Off ſpring was hurried away by your Means as a Sheep to the Slaughter, and ſuffer'd the Pains of an Ignominious and Cruel Death, puts in a Temper of forgiveneſs, and is willing to forget the Things that are paſt; Offers you Her Protection with her mercy; and in Compaſſion to your Conſciences, is not willing that you ſhould looſe the hopes of Heaven by Purchaſing *here on Earth.*

She would have no more Sir Humphrey's *tempt the Juſtice of God, by falling from his* True Worſhip, *and giving Ear to the* Cat Calls

and Back Pipes *at* Paul's, *would have your Sir* Thomas's *keep to their Primitive Text, and not* Venture Damnation *to* Play at Long Spoon *and* Cuſtard *for a Tranſitory twelve Month, would have your* Sir Tom *ſing Pſalms at* Highgate-Hill; *ſplit Texts of Scripture with his Diminutive Figure of a* Chaplain *without running the Hazard of of qualifying himſelf to be call'd Handſome Man, for riding on Horſe-back before the* City-Train Bands, *and would you but give your ſelves leave to think, you would be thankful to the Houſe of Commons for paſſing the Bill againſt* Occaſional Conformity, *and make an Intereſt with the Lords not to ſtand by their Amendments, ſince it, in your own Language, will ſhut the Door of Temptation againſt you, and be a Means that you ſin not, but have the entire Enjoyment of a Religion, that will ſecure your Eternal Happineſs in the World to come.*

But to return more immediately to our Author, and trace him in his Pernicious Schemes and Ironies; They Murther'd their Lawful Sovereign, *ſays he,* and ſet up a ſordid Impoſtor in his Room; they ſequeſtred the Clergy of *England's* Eſtates, and made the Nobility and Gentry Compound, In the Days of *King Charles* the Second, How did the Church reward their Bloody Doings with Lenity and Mercy; *Except the Barbarous Regicides of the Pretended High Court of Juſtice,* Not a Soul ſuffer'd for all the Blood in an unnatural War. *King James,* as if Mercy was the Inherent Quality of the Family began his Reign with unuſual Favour to 'em. &c. *Which is not in the Power of all his flouriſhes to deny, and which will ſtand for Truth, when his* Ironies *will be forgotten, and quite exploded; and above all how* Pitifully they manag'd *in the late Reign, is too plain to need any Remarks.*

However I muſt ask his pardon, if I take the Liberty to think he may ſpare his Ironies, *as to the Management of the late Miniſtry, and hold himſelf aſſur'd that it was actually as pitiful, as the conſequences of it have been fatal.*

Who were they that Depos'd *a King for Male Adminiſtration, and got into Places of Truſt to be Guilty of it themſelves? Who were againſt ſtanding Armies, in a* Prince's *Time who maintain'd the Soldiery out of his own Income, and for them when they were to have been at the Expence of the ſubject? Who were for taking off Acts of Attainder from declar'd Rebels, and People Convicted of Rebellion but for making Laws, againſt thoſe who were only ſuſpected of Treaſon, ous* Practices, *for want of ſufficient Witneſſes to condemn 'em?*

What ſort of Men, I ſay, were thoſe, That under pretence of being near His Majeſty's Perſon for His ſafety Endanger'd the publick ſecurity, and could think Threeſcore Thouſand too little for their ſecret ſervices, when that ſecrecy of theirs has ran the Nation in Debt many

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Millions? Who were they that were they that were for Impeaching S
C——— D——— *for a false Endorsement, when they thought*
hard to be Im ——*d themselves for betraying their* Country, *a*
selling the whole Spanish *Dominions to the* French *King, under t*
Notion of a Partition Treaty?

The Question is easily Resolv'd without an *Oedipus*; Who bu
Pitiful Managers, the *Achitophels* of those Days when *Whiglism* w
in it *Zenith*, and to Cant and Whine in Publick, was a good a
a *Privy Seal* for any Member of the Faction, to Pilfer Exchequer
and do what seem'd good, *(that is Profitable)* in their own Eye
in secret.

Yet we must not be upon our Guard, and having expell'd th
the Disease, must take nothing by way of Prevention againſt the
Return of it, we must not fill up their Places with Men of Ap-
prov'd Honesty and Integrity, for fear those who have none
should be angry ith us!

If they take the Liberty to Threaten us while they are Dis-
countenanced and out of Favour, What would they not Act
could they recover their former Esteem? *Scotland* would be but
a Mock Theatre of their *Enthusiasm*, in Respect of *England*, and
had they the Power in their Hands; not only the Bishops would
be turn'd out, their Persons Abus'd; their Sacred Order Expos'd,
and their Estates Confiscated, but the Laity themselves would be
sent a Grazing, which God forbid, and prevent by *councelling*
Her Majesty's Councellors, and Teaching Her Senators Wisdom.

I appeal to him, and his Acquaintance the *Observator*, whom
he would have the World think he has no Friendship with, whe-
ther these are not the Drifts of the Dissenters Designs, and whe-
ther any thing can satisfy such Restless and Ambitious Spirits be-
neath an Engrossment of all Offices and profitable Employments,
should we permit 'em Admission once more as in the late Reign,
to the Possession of those Priviledges which are the *Churches*
Birthright.

But now I remember, What has Honest Mr. *Tuchin* to do
with Ungodly Mr. *Foe?* They have not paid him for taking
their Part so Religiously, for Railing against the Church and its
Members, and he has unbotton'd his Cloak like *Daniel Burges* in
his House of Merriment, near *Covent-Garden*, and drop'd those
that hung upon it for Protection, No *Peter Penny*, no *Pater Noster*,
which has made him turn Deserter for want of Arrears, and
come over to a side where he will not stay long if he expects a-
ny other Reward from 'em than to be Laugh'd at for his Pains.

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As to the *Union between England and Scotland*, Her Majesty has Recommended it from the Throne, and I am for any thing that Her Majesty shall think fitting to be done, well knowing the Prudence of those Gentlemen whom her Majesty so Consults in her most Arduous *Affairs* to be such, as will direct her nothing but what will be to the *Advantage* of both Kingdoms in General, but we are neither afraid of *Presbyterian Members* in our House of Commons, nor long Cloaks in our Convocations, being firmly satisfy'd we have those in either *Assembly* which will be a Glory to the Place of their Nativity, while this *Author* of ours will be a Scandal to his; and though he makes a Jest of the *English* Nation, by saying if they won't Conform to our Settlement of the Crown, we must make 'em, the very *Scotch Annals* themselves will own it is more than once we have been too hard for 'em.

Not that I am for Fomenting Dissentions between two such Powerful Neighbours, but allow that to be litterally True with me, that is an Irony *with him. Tho' I cannot but take Notice at the same time of his Insiduous Design of Embroiling Affairs between 'em both, as far as lies in his Capacity, which I hope is too weak to be Successful. The two Nations have smarted too lately for their former Differences to be in Love with 'em again, and seek Occasions to renew 'em; and the Union of the two Kingdoms has not been of continuance enough to make amends for those Breaches, which had before it been between 'em almost from their very Originals.*

The Battle at Flodden-Field *will be an Eternal Witness of the* English *Bravery, as it will Evidence the Undaunted Behaviour of the* Scotch, *and since none but the* French *will gain by our Intestine Divisions, it's the Business of those that are in* War *with the* French *to prevent 'em from reaping any such Advantages.*

To take his Reasons *in hand, which I can by no means think Ironical on account of his Answers, which seem to be given on purpose to discover the Strength of 'em, and to Plead for* Favour *to a Party he would be thought to shew no Quarter to, it is wholy necessary to Examine the first, which is,*

The Dissenters are very Numerous; they say, they are a great Part of the Nation, and we cannot Suppress 'em.

This is easily answer'd, without having recourse to the French *King's Schemes in reducing the* Hugonots. *The private Soldiers in an Army Prodigiously outnumber the Commanders, as for Instance, in a Company compos'd of Sixty, Including Officers, there are generally a Captain, Lieutenant, Ensign, and four Serjeants, with the like Num-*

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ber of Corporals; and inconſiderable Quota of Men in Command, to thoſe that are Govern'd by 'em, yet it is ſcarce heard of once in an Age, that theſe private Centinels effectually Rebel, they may Mutiny perhaps, and threaten to Revolt for want of Pay, &c. but are always reduced to their due Obedience to their Reſpective Leaders.

As it is in an Army, ſo it is in a Nation, let the Mobility be of what Temper they will, ſo that thoſe who Preſide over 'em, and are Keepers of the Publick Peace, are of contrary Principles, and Loyal and Steady Reſolutions, it rarely, very rarely happens that any Riotous Aſſembly, be it never ſo great, and let it come ſeemingly to a Head, has had its intended Effect, but Vaniſhes away like the Morning Cloud, *and Diſappears almoſt at the very ſight of thoſe who are ſet over 'em.*

There is a Reſpect due to Superiors, that ſtrikes thoſe that are under 'em with an aweful Regard, and no ſooner does a Magiſtrate make his Appearance, that is Inveſted with an Authority from above, but all things are huſh'd, be they never ſo much in diſorder. If we therefore make Choice of ſuch *Rulers* as are in the Intereſt of the Church, the Church muſt keep its Advantage, and a ſtrict and careful Hand will be ſufficient to Eſtabliſh her on laſting Foundations without coming to ſuch Extremities as he Preſcribes, to ſtir thoſe that Diſſent from her up into open *Rebellion.*

We have too lately Taſted the Bitter Cup of their *Power* and *Authority*, we have ſeen 'em hold the Reigns with that ſtrict Hands that the Bit has Gaul'd our Mouths, and the Spur has entr'd deep into our Sides, and without a timely Proviſion, while this Queen, who is the Joy of our Hearts and the Light of our Eyes, is Numbered among the Living, while this Council that is Compos'd of Members Affectionate to the Kingdom, and entirely Devoted to the Service of the Church, is in Being, while this Parliament who have already done ſo much for the Preſervation of our Rights Eccleſiaſtical and Civil, and are employ'd in adding to the Securities already given to our ſelves and the Holy Religion we make Profeſſion of, have the Legiſlative Power in their Hands.

God knows, I ſpeak it without an *Irony*, and would have him that reads me, take my Meaning directly, what Hands we may fall into next, according to the *Limitation Act*, *Strangers are to Poſſeſs our Land*, ſhould our Queen die *Childleſs*, which God of his Infinite Mercy forbid, and we are to fall into the Hands of thoſe that know us not, and are unacquainted with our Conſtitutions.

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We have Experienc'd the Effects of one Revolution, and are under no neceſſity of wiſhing for another, and we have been diſcourag'd enough not long ſince, to make us Pray for the Encouragement we now receive under her preſent Majeſty's Protection. *They gave out*, ſays *Plutarch* in the Life of *Timoleon*, *That the Deſign of their coming was to Introduce* Liberty, *and Depoſe* Tyrants; *But having gain'd the Power, they did ſo* Tyranize *themſelves, That the Reign of former Oppreſſors ſeem'd a Golden Age, if compar'd with the Arbitrary* Proceedings *and* Exactions *of theſe pretended* Deliverers; *which made the* Sicilians *think Them much more Happy that Expir'd in* Servitude, *than Thoſe who liv'd to ſee ſuch a* Diſmal Freedom.

This Inſtance in Hiſtory ſhould Caution us to prevent the like Calamities that fell upon the poor unfortunate *Sicilans*, and ſince it is but too Evident that what has happen'd to one Iſland, may be experienc'd by another; we cannot be too Expeditious in taking Care for Poſterity, we cannot be too Zealous for God's Honour and our own Preſervation.

Be their Numbers what they will, be their Tempers never ſo Embitter'd, and their Endeavours never ſo Reſtleſs, it cannot be in their Power to *Harm* us, come what Succeſſor there will, let his or her Principles be what they will, it matters not one Ruſh, the Church muſt and will be Secure, and Unmoveable as the *Rock which on Chriſt founded it*, ſhall our Senators out of their Great Wiſdom think fit to purſue the Means God Almighty has put in their Hands, and follow thoſe Noble Reſolutions, that if reduc'd to an Act, will not only make Proviſion for us and our Children, but all Futurity of Ages; as Hypocriſie that never bluſhes will be put out of Countenance, and Men ſhall be forc'd to *do Good*, becauſe they ſhall be depriv'd of the Liberty to *do Evil*.

As for our Author's other Argument, which is this *That 'tis a Time of War, and we have need to Unite againſt the Common Enemy*. The Exorbitant Power of *France* is enough to envince the Neceſſity of it: But it will not be Immaterial to our Purpoſe, which is to make him appear, as he is an Incendiary, if we look back to his three Replies to his own Queſtion, and obſerve that after he has ſaid, 1ſt. *They* (*meaning the Diſſenters*) *are not ſo Numerous as the Proteſtants in* France, *and yet the* French *King Effectually cleared the Nation of them at once, and we don't find he miſſes 'em at Home*, which, by the way, is a pretty ſort of Inſinuation for People that have Receiv'd the Diſtreſs'd Refugees in their Boſoms, to Baniſh their own Natives for the ſame Cauſe as they Entertaind Strangers.

2. *The*

2. *The more Numerous the more Dangerous, and therefore the more need to ſuppreſs 'em; and God has ſuffer'd us to bear 'em as Goads in our ſides, for not utterly Extinguiſhing 'em long ago.*

2. *If we are to allow 'em only becauſe we can't ſuppreſs 'em, then it ought to be tried whether we can or no*; he ſhews himſelf without his Diſguiſe, and though he had before ſeem'd to doubt our Strength, by adviſing us to *try* which ſide was ſtrongeſt, *We make no queſtion*, cries he, that is *WE APPLES*, but *WE are able to deal with this Common Enemy without their Help; Why muſt WE Unite with 'em becauſe of the Enemy? Will they go over to the Enemy unleſs WE prevent it by an Union with 'em WE are very well contented they ſhould, and make no queſtion, WE ſhall be ready to deal with them and the Enemy too, and better without 'em than with 'em*, &c.

Certainly he has not the Impudence to turn this upon the Church-Party, and ſay 'tis their Ordinary Cant, as he would make the World believe in his *Brief Explications*; Our Actions are too well known to the Publick, and our Chearful Concurrence with them in the Late Reign for the Common Cauſe of Chriſtendom, are undeniable Witneſſes againſt him. When the Nation's in Danger, it is high time to drop Civil Diſputes. *Tua Res agitur Paries cum Proximus Ardet*, if we would not endeavour to quench the Flames in our Neighbours Houſe for his ſake, Self preſervation bids us do it for our Own.

They may Threaten as long as they will to take Meaſures contrary to Ours at the preſent, but they are too much concern'd in the Cauſe of it, not to ſtand up heartily in Defence of a Government that Oppoſes One that would Ruin 'em for Ever, ſhould it get the Advantage over us. Long Bags of Gold, and Precious Moveables are not ſo eaſily to be parted with, and they have Feather'd their Neſts in the late Reign too much to Forfeit the Protection of this by not Joining againſt the Common Enemy.

However, We are oblig'd to good Mr. *Foe*; He has Chalk'd out a Way for 'em to go by whenever Opportunity ſhall offer it ſelf; and the Secretary of State will, without doubt, Thank him for his Advice in a ſuitable Method, could any of his Janiſaries be ſo Fortunate as to Light of him. Mr. *Bellamy*, the Parties Agent, both in *England* and *Holland*, can tell him they are in Search after him, and if he does not provide himſelf with Ways and Means to Jump out of the Window as he did, he may keep Company with his Printer, who has got a Stone-Doublet to ſit cloſe on his Shoulders for Changing Parties, and when he had ſome Reputation in the World by Converſing with Honeſt Men,

for

r loſing of it of a ſudden by keeping Company with thoſe that d none.

Now for his Objections. *1ſt. The Queen has promiſed 'em to ntinue 'em in their Tolerated Liberty; and has told us ſhe will be a eligious Obſerver of Her Word.* Yet he has the Impudence to ueſtion She will ſtand to that Promiſe, by deſiring Her to break a little after; or rather a Diffident Miſtruſt of Her Sincerity, hich all the Ironies his *Clavis Rhetorica* can furniſh him with, an never Wipe out.

What will ye do for your Siſter, he goes on a little farther, *In e Day ſhe ſhall be ſpoken for?* A Queſtion which he may be Reolv'd otherwiſe than he would have it do. Do? What ſhould e done, but Her Eternal Proſperity ſecur'd to her, her Dominion Eſtabliſh'd upon ſure and laſting Foundations, and her Empire rendreed as impregnable for the future as her Worſhip will be Extenſive.

When *Dinah* was Raviſh'd, the Sons of *Jacob* cut off the Inhabitants of the Town where the Fact was committed. When Idolatry Rag'd in the *Iſraelite* Camp, *Moſes* caus'd Three and Thirty Thouſand of the Idolators to be put to Death; but the Caſe of the Church is much different from that of the Patriarch's as is that of the Diſſenters from the Idolaters.

God be Praiſed we have had the Benefit of our Holy Religion in the worſt of Times, and the Church is as Pure and Undefiled in its Doctrines and Ceremonies as ever. There have been Attempts made upon her Chaſtity, Comprehenſion-Swords drawn upon her, and what not, but ſhe has happily eſcap'd 'em, and the Diſſenters (tho' the Difference is much beyond a *few Modes and Accidents*) are not at ſuch a diſtance from us as to deſerve the Names of Idolaters unleſs Idolizing their own Opinions, and doating to Diſtraction on their own Abſurdities, may fall under that Denomination.

Wherefore though we are under an Indiſpenſable Neceſſity to over-rule them, for fear the Time may again offer it ſelf, when it may be in their Power to keep us under, yet it is not belonging to a Profeſſion, whoſe very Eſſentials are Mercy and Long Sufferance, to *Extirpate* em, as ſome of their Perſwaſion did the *Glencoe* Men, without any Tokens of Chriſtian Compaſſion, which they are of Late Years grown Mighty Pretenders to.

No, no, let 'em live amorg us to learn from us; let 'em have the Continuance of the Government's Protection, that they may not have the leaſt handle to take up Arms againſt it, and let 'em ſtick to their old Principles; that ſeeing the vaſt difference [illegible] the

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Beauties of one Religion, and the Deformity of another, and the mighty disproportion between what Preaches up Loyalty, and what blows the Trumpet for Rebellion; they may *in these their Days*, cleave to what is Right, and lay hold on Things that *belong to their* Peace.

In a word, notwithstanding the many Insolencies of this Author and his Party; *notwithstanding the grievous* Persecutions *and Cruelties he would fling upon that Church which is all meekness and patience; notwithstanding their repeated Endeavours to create a Jealousie between us, and those of another Communion, and their unwearied Application to defame the Present Ministry; and render suspected to those that even in the Times of War and Tumult live quietly under it; 'twill be to our lasting Reputation, and an Encrease to the Honour we have of being Educated in the Best Church in Christendom; to forgive their Injuries and Oppressions, their Scandalous Treatment, and Unchristian Behaviour; but amidst our Forgiveness not to forget studying for* Ways and Means *how to prevent their Accession to the same Authority which they have so notoriously abus'd.*

To be dispoil'd of all farther Hopes of Dignities and Preferments, to Finger the Nations Money no longer, or Exhaust its Treasures, to have Bills brought into Parliament for Stating the Publick Accounts, and Resume all Grants made in the late Reign, will be worse than Death to 'em; and Mr. *Foe* may conclude with his *Salter Hall* Prayer, if he pleases, and call upon *God Almighty to put into the Hearts of all the Friends of Truth, to list up a Standard against* Pride *and Antichrist* (which in his Sense are of the Church Establish'd, that Enjoy the Places of Trust they enjoy'd in King *William*'s Days) *That the Posterity of the Sons of Error may be rooted out from the face of this Land for ever.*

A pretty way to stir up Rebellion; but he may fix his Standard where he pleases: Nay go down to the *West*, and mix with the Herd of *Monmouth*'s Adherents, whose Son in a Book of his, call'd, *The Succession Discuss'd*, he would have made Successor to Her present Majesty, notwithstanding his pretended Affection to the House of *Hannover*; I durst perswade my self, the Nation in General, is so well satisfied with the Present Posture of Affairs, as to leave him and his Standard alone, to stand by themselves.

To sum up the Whole; if his *Panegyreck* on Her Majesty, her Council, and Parliament, be an *Irony*, as he has the Impud[ence] to affirm in his *Explication*; if all he has said in Honour [of the] Church, be intended, as he confesses, for its Disadvantage; [if] he would take my Advice, he should e'en keep *Incognito* as he is, not talk of Surrendering himself, unless he is in Love with a far worse Condition, than the *Poor People* are, in whom he pretends such a vast Concern for.

FINIS.

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